

Message Text

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43

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 CG-00 IO-15 DODE-00

EB-11 INT-08 SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSF-04 H-03 SS-15 NSC-10

AGR-20 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 122336

R 021150Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, OCON, XN, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: POLISH POSITION ON ICNAF

REF: (A) STATE 166742; (B) STATE 167508; (C) STATE 183185

COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

1. SUMMARY. IN REPLY TO SECRETARY ROGERS' LETTER REGARD-
IN SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEMS FACING THE OCTOBER 15-19
SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING AT OTTAWA, PRIME MINISTER OF
SHIPPING TOLD AMBASSADOR ON SEPT 25 THAT POLAND COULD
NT AGREE TO THE "DRASTIC" SOLUTION PROPOSED AT COPENHAGEN,
WHICH COULD RESULT IN A 50 PERCENT REDUCTION OF POLISH CATCH.
THE MINISTER SAID POLAND VALUED ICNAF HIGHLY, AND WOULD
BE PLEASED TO ACCEPT SOLUTIONS WITHIN ICNAF WHICH COULD
LEAD TO A GRADUAL REDUCTION OF FISHING EFFORT, AND WHICH
TOOK POLISH INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT. HE WAS UNWILLING,
HOWEVER, TO SPECIFY WHAT WAS MEANT BY GRADUAL

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REDUCTION, INDICATING ONLY THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BETAKEN
ON AN AGREED SCIENTIFIC BASIS. THE AMBASSADOR UNDER-
SCORED THE RUGENT NEED FOR NEW ACTION WITHIN ICNAF AND
SAID IT APPEARED THE GOP POSITION WOULD NOT BE AS HELPFUL

AS WE HAD HOPED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN OLSZOWSKI ON AUGUST 27 THE LETTER ON ICNAF FISHERIES PROBLEMS CONTAINED REF A, AND STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN. OLSZOWSKI DID NOT COMMENT OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT HE WOULD MAKE CERTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE US WERE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY AND THAT A POLISH RESPONSE WOULD BE MADE.

3. ON SEPT 25, MINISTER OF SHIPPING JERZY SZOPA CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR TO OUTLINE IN SOME DETAIL THE POSITION OF THE GOP, AND TO PRESENT AIDE MEMOIRE RECORDING THESE POINTS. THE EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE IS BEING SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY SEPT 26. SZOPA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTRY OF SHIPPING OFFICIAL MARIAN FILA, THE CURRENT ICNAF CHAIRMAN. (THE GOP'S DELAY IN RESPONDING TO SECRETARY ROGERS' LETTER APPEARS AT LEAST IN PART TO HAVE STEEMED FROM PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SEPT 4-13 CONFERENCE ON BALTIC FISHERIES AT GDANSK (WARSAW 4879) AND FROM FILA'S ABSENCE.)

4. MINISTER SZOPA SAID THAT WHEN THE US SUBMITTED ITS PROPOSALS EARLIER THIS YEAR CONCERNING ICNAF SUBAREA 5 AND STATISTICAL AREA 6, THE POLISH SIDE PROCEEDED TO REDUCE ITS FISHING EFFORTS WITHOUT WAITING FOR A DECISION BY ICNAF. AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO CONDUCT SELECTIVE FISHING IN PELAGIC WATERS. THE 1972 POLISH CATCH IN SA 5 AND SA 6 WAS ABOUT 210,000 TONS, AND ABOUT THE SAME WAS EXPECTED FOR 1973. IF THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED AT COPENHAGEN FOR AN OVERALL QUOTA WERE ACCEPTED, THE REDUCTION OF THE POLISH CATCH COULD BE 50 PERCENT, I.E., A CUT IN EXCESS OF 100,000 TONS FOR 1974. SZOPA SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR POLAND TO REDUCE ITS FISHING EFFORT BY 50 PERCENT IN THESE ICNAF AREAS. HOWEVER, OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH COULD LEAD TO A GRADUAL REDUCTION COULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

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5. SZOPA SAID THE FISH POLAND WAS CHIEFLY INTERESTED IN WITHIN SA 5 AND SA 6 WERE MACKEREL AND HERRING, WHICH WERE NOT OF INTEREST TO US FISHERMEN. POLAND WAS AWARE OF THE GENERAL OVER-FISHING PROBLEM IN THIS REGION, AND WAS TRYING TO WITHDRAW ITS FISHING FLEET GRADUALLY DESPITE THE ADDED COST THIS INVOLVES. IT WAS NECESSARY, THEREFORE, TO SEEK OTHER NONTRADITIONAL GROUNDS FOR POLISH FLEETS, SUCH AS THE PACIFIC AND THE SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC, WHICH INVOLVED HIGHER COSTS. THE POLISH FISHING INDUSTRY IS BASED ON SCIENTIFIC METHODS, SZOPA ASSERTED, AND SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR DANGERS ICNAF NOW FACES. SZOPA PRAISED COOPERATIVE MULTILATERAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF ICNAF, AND SAID

THE ORGANIZATION WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR COUNTRIES SEEKING TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY THEIR TERRITORIAL OR FISHERIES JURISDICTIONS. A DISSOLUTION OF ICNAF WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION OF LOS PROBLEMS.

6. POLAND WISHED TO AVOID A SITUATION IN ICNAF, THE MINISTER CONTINUED, WHEREIN REDUCTIONS WERE CONSIDERED WITHOUT TAKING POLISH INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNTS. PROTEIN MUST BE SUPPLIED TO THE POLISH PEOPLE IN INCREASING AMOUNTS AND A 100,000 TON LOSS OF FISH WOULD BE A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM TO OVERCOME. SZOPA CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT POLAND WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION WITHIN ICNAF. SOLUTIONS LEADING TO A "GRADUAL REDUCTION" IN FISHING EFFORT COULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO POLAND, BUT NOT THE FREESTIC SOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED. SZOPA ALSO NOTED THAT THE US PROPOSAL CONCERNING EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS REACHED AT OTTAWA (REF C, WHICH WAS PRESENTED BY THE EMBASSY C AN AIDE-MEMOIRE SEPT 19) WAS BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED, AND THAT POLAND WOULD DO ITS BEST TO DEAL WITH THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM AS WELL.

7. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT THE POLISH SIDE MEANT BY A "GRADUAL REDUCTION" OF FISHING EFFORT. SZOPA'S RESPONSE WAS THAT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO INDICATE WHAT THE CORRECT PERCENTAGE MIGHT BE. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, IT MUST BE DONE ON A SCIENTIFIC BASIS WITH AGREEMENT OF ALL THE SCIENTISTS. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS NOT ENCOURAGING IN THAT THE US SIDE AT COPENHAGEN CONSIDERED THE ALLOWABLE CATCH FIGURES SUPPORTED BY DR. POPIEL WERE UNREALISTICALLY HIGH (REF B, PARA 9-I). NOTING THAT POLAND IS THE SECOND LARGEST FISHING POWER IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC AND THAT ITS CATCHES, IN THE US VIEW, HAVE CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE PRESENT PROBLEMS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE GOP'S VIEWS IN DETAIL TO AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN. THE US POSITION WAS THAT URGENT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN, HOWEVER, IT SEEMED VERY CLEAR THAT THE POLISH POSITION TO REFER THE PROBLEM TO THE SCIENTISTS AND THEN ADOPT GRADUAL MEASURES, WOULD MEAN IMPLEMENTATION OF SATISFACTORY CONTROLS WOULD BE FURTHER DELAYED. AS A RESULT, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, HE FELT WASHINGTON WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE POLISH POSITION FOR THE SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING AT OTTAWA WOULD NOT BE AS HELPFUL AS THE US SIDE HAD HOPED.

8. IN CONCLUSION, MINISTER SZOPA SAID HE BELIEVED RESULTS COULD STILL BE GAINED AT OTTAWA WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE WHAT THE US SIDE WANTED, WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME RESORTING

TO SUCH A DRASITC SOLUTION AS HAD BEEN PROPOSED. HE
INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MEET AGAIN BEFORE THE OTTAWA
MEETING IF NECESSARY.
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